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PTO/SB/21 (08-03)

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TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number	09/834,431
Filing Date	April 13, 2001
First Named Inventor	Keiji Mabuchi et al.
Art Unit	2615
Examiner Name	Yogesh K. Aggarwal
Attorney Docket Number	075834.00068

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

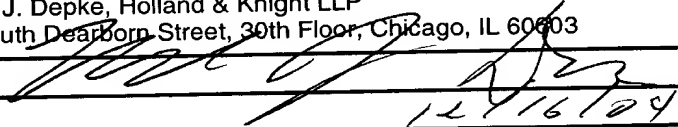
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Remarks

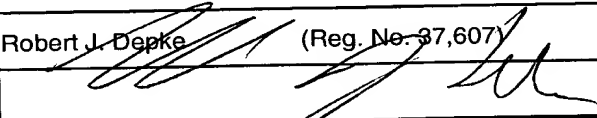
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Robert J. Depke, Holland & Knight LLP 131 South Dearborn Street, 30th Floor, Chicago, IL 60603
Signature	
Date	12/16/04

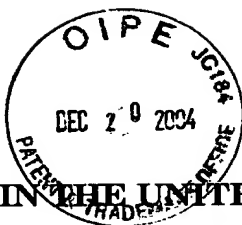
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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Keiji Mabuchi et al. **Atty. Docket No.** 075834.00068
Serial No.: 09/834,431 **Group Art Unit:** 2615
Filed: April 13, 2001 **Examiner:** Yogesh K. Aggarwal
Customer No.: 33448

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop - Fee Amendment
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SIR:

In accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97, 1.98, Applicants and the undersigned attorney hereby submit legible copies of the patents listed on the accompanying form PTO/SB/08A. These references were identified and discussed in a corresponding European Search Report (copy enclosed). In accordance with 37CFR §1.17(p), Applicants attach the requisite fee of \$180.

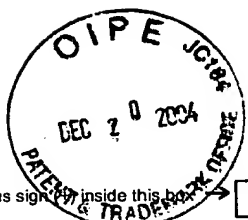
The undersigned points out that the submission of these documents is neither a concession nor admission that the documents qualify as prior art for this application under the patent laws of the United States. Applicants reserve the right to challenge the status of any such document that the office determines to be prior art.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/16/04

(Reg. 37,607)

Robert J. Depke
HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP
131 South Dearborn, 30th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 422-9050



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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known		
				Application Number	09/834,431	
Sheet		1	of	2	Filing Date	April 13, 2001
					First Named Inventor	Keiji Mabuchi et al
					Group Art Unit	2612
					Examiner Name	Yogesh K. Aggarwal
					Attorney Docket Number	075834.00068

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	US1	6,124,888		Toshiyuki Terada et al	9/26/2000	
	US2	6,441,849		Hidetoshi Fukuda	8/27/2002	
	US3					
	US4					
	US5					
	US6					
	US7					
	US8					
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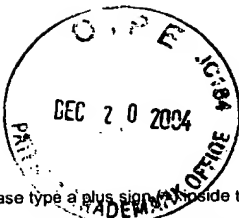
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	F1	EP	0 840 503 A2		Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.	05/06/1998		
	F2							
	F3							
	F4							
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	F6							
	F7							
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	F10							

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¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet <u>2</u> of <u>2</u>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	09/834,431
				Filing Date	April 13, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Keiji Mabuchi et al
				Group Art Unit	2612
				Examiner Name	Yogesh K. Aggarwal
				Attorney Docket Number	075834.00068

OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		Patent Abstracts of Japan, Vol. 2000, no. 4, 31 August 2000 JP 2000 023046 Matsushita Electric Ind. Co. Ltd., 21 January 2000	
		Patent Abstracts of Japan, Vol.1998, no. 1, 30 January 1998 JP 09 247689 Olympus Optical Co., Ltd., 19 September 1997	
		Patent Abstracts of Japan, Vol. 1999 no. 1, 29 January 1999 JP 10 285476 Olympus Optical Co., Ltd., 23 October 1998	

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